KNational Australia Bank

Quarterly Australian Residential Property Survey: Q4 2013

Housing market sentiment lifts in Q4, supported by faster house price growth in all states (bar SA/NT). House prices expected to keep growing in next 1-2 years, but at slower rate than predicted in Q3 survey. Queensland is the exception and now set to lead country for capital gains. Demand improved for all types of new and established property, with local and foreign investors significant players in the market.

- NAB Residential Property Index up +4 to +36 in Q4 highest read since survey began. VIC saw biggest increase and replaced NSW as strongest state. VIC and QLD most optimistic in next 1-2 years; WA revised down heavily.
- House prices up 1.6% in Q4 led by NSW and VIC. Outlook for prices softer and now tipped to rise 2.9% in next year (3.3% previously) and 3.7% in following year (4.5% previously). Expectations lower in all states except QLD which is now expected to provide the biggest returns in next 1-2 years.
- NAB's view of the market more optimistic than average survey forecast. NAB sees average capital city house prices rising 6% in year to end-2014 and 5% in the year to end-2015 (more detail contained in Appendix 1). Part of this reflects the influence of foreign buyers in the market, who account for 11% of all new property demand and around 6½% of the established property market (see chart below).
- National rents ticked up a little in Q4, but combination of slow rental growth and faster capital appreciation suggest yields continued to erode. Rental growth fastest in NSW and weakest in WA. NSW and VIC the standouts for income growth in the next 1-2 years with returns weakest in WA.
- Local investors played a bigger role in new property market in Q4, especially in QLD. Foreign investors slightly less active but still represent a significant part of the market.
- Moderate increase in demand for all types of new property in Q4 with inner city the best location in all states.
- Concern over housing affordability and credit availability identified as main factors constraining new housing development, but the level of concern around credit has faded significantly over past year.
- Demand for established property stronger in all market segments in Q4, led by houses in the inner city and middle/outer ring.
- Capital growth expectations for established houses and apartments higher at all price points (except <\$250,000 although this segment still set to out-perform). Premium market showing signs of recovery.</p>
- Employment security still viewed as biggest impediment to buying existing property in most states (especially Victoria and WA), but concern also growing about price levels and lack of stock.



NAB Residential Property Index

Q3'13	Q4'13	Q2'14	Q4'14	Q4'15
40	50	66	77	77
47	45	55	59	58
31	35	54	69	73
2	9	28	59	66
13	20	42	46	47
32	36	53	63	65
	40 47 31 2 13	40 50 47 45 31 35 2 9 13 20	40 50 66 47 45 55 31 35 54 2 9 28 13 20 42	40 50 66 77 47 45 55 59 31 35 54 69 2 9 28 59 13 20 42 46







For more information contact: Alan Oster, Chief Economist (03) 8634 2927 0414 444 652

Robert De lure, Senior Economist - Industry Analysis (03) 8634 4611

Dean Pearson, Head of Industry Analysis (03) 8634 2331

Residential Property - Market Performance

House price outlook softens in all states except Queensland. Queensland now expected to lead the country for capital growth over the next 1-2 years, with SA/NT the weakest market.





Rental growth ticked up a little in Q4, but faster capital growth suggests that yields are eroding. Outlook for rental market strongest in NSW and Victoria, but expectations in WA much weaker.



NAB Residential Property Index rose in all states except NSW in Q4. Victoria and Queensland to emerge as the strongest states in the next 1-2 years, with expectations in WA scaled back heavily.



Residential Property - New Developments

Local investors playing a bigger role in the new property market. Overseas buyers less active in Q4 (especially in Queensland and NSW) but still significant players overall, accounting for 11% of the market.





Demand for all new property improved in Q4, but national average hides big variance among states (overall demand much stronger in NSW). National demand for most property to wane slightly next year.







Demand for New Residential Developments by State (next 12 months)



A notable decline in the level of concern over tight credit in the new housing market evident in past year.







Residential Property - Existing Properties

Up-graders dominate established housing market. FHB activity slowed in Q4, but local investors more active (especially NSW). More foreign buyers (over 7%) tipped to enter market next year. On average, more upgraders attracted to established housing, but investors (local and foreign) favour new developments.



Demand for established property improved in all market segments/locations in Q4 and was strongest for houses in the inner city and middle/outer ring in all states.







Demand for Existing Residential Property by State (current)







Expectations for capital growth in housing and apartment markets next year higher at all price points (bar <\$250,000 although still best). Premium market showing signs of recovering, especially NSW and Victoria.











Employment security still viewed as the biggest impediment to buying existing property in most states (especially in Victoria & WA), but concerns are growing about price levels and lack of stock.



Suburbs tipped to enjoy above average capital growth over the next year.



Survey Respondents' Expectations

Current Survey Quarter Next Next Next 6mth 12mth 2yrs Q4'11 Q1'12 Q2'12 Q3'12 Q1'13 Q2'13 Q4'13 Q3'11 Q4'12 Q3'13 -2.7 -2.5 -1.6 -2.5 -1.1 -0.9 0.6 0.2 1.8 Victoria 1.5 2.2 3.2 3.9 NSW -0.5 -17 -0.7 -1.5 -0.8 -0.6 0.6 0.1 1.9 2.3 2.4 3.0 3.4 -2.4 -1.8 -1.4 -0.8 -0.5 -0.4 -0.5 3.3 Queensland -2.6 0.8 1.2 1.9 4.5 South Australia/NT -1.2 -0.3 -2.3 -2.4 -1.8 -0.8 0.5 -0.4 0.1 -0.2 0.5 1.9 2.9 Western Australia -0.9 -1.3 -0.2 -0.3 0.1 0.4 1.2 1.0 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.7 3.2 -1.2 -1.6 Australia -2.1 -1.8 -0.7 -0.6 0.4 0.1 1.3 1.6 2.0 2.9 3.7

House Price Expectations (%)

Rental Expectations (%)

	Current Survey Quarter							Next	Next	Next			
	Q3'11	Q4'11	Q1'12	Q2'12	Q3'12	Q4'12	Q1'13	Q2'13	Q3'13	Q4'13	6mth	12mth	2yrs
Victoria	0.2	0.9	-0.1	-0.8	-0.5	-0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.2	2.2	2.9
NSW	2.5	2.2	2.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	1.0	-0.2	0.9	1.1	1.8	2.9	3.7
Queensland	-0.5	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.9	2.8
South Australia/NT	-1.5	0.6	0.0	-0.1	-0.4	-1.4	1.0	-0.5	-0.3	0.3	0.5	1.4	2.2
Western Australia	1.3	2.5	2.6	2.7	1.1	1.9	2.4	0.8	-1.0	-0.8	0.3	0.6	1.0
Australia	0.7	1.2	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.1	1.9	2.6

Appendix 1: NAB's View of Residential House Prices

NAB modelling indicates that average capital city house prices will rise by around 6% through the year to December 2014 and by 5% in the year to December 2015, which is more bullish than the average survey forecast. House price growth should be supported by continued low interest rates, improved affordability, population growth, long standing supply issues and foreign buying activity. However, unemployment pressures and the economy are likely to put a ceiling on how high house prices will go.

Brisbane (6.4%), Perth (6.3%) and Sydney (6%) lead the way forward in 2014, with much slower growth predicted in Adelaide (2.1%) due to high unemployment and an under-performing state economy.

State variance will persist through 2015, with Brisbane (6%) and Sydney (5.1%) out-performing the national average. Modest price growth is also forecast for Perth (4.6%) and Melbourne (3.4%), but Adelaide (2.6%) continues to under-perform.

	2010	2011	2012	2013F	2014F	2015F
Sydney	5.5	-3.2	4.5	13.1	6.0	5.1
Melbourne	7.9	-5.6	0.0	6.0	4.6	3.4
Brisbane	0.0	-5.4	1.6	6.3	6.4	6.0
Adelaide	3.6	-4.5	-0.3	2.5	2.1	2.6
Perth	0.3	-4.1	6.2	9.5	6.3	4.6
Capital City Average	4.6	-4.4	2.5	8.3	6.0	5.0

NAB Capital City House Price Forecasts (%)*

*percentage changes represent through the year growth rates to Q4

About the Survey

In April 2010, NAB launched the inaugural NAB Quarterly Australian Commercial Property Survey with the aim of developing Australia's pre-eminent survey of market conditions in the Commercial Property market.

The large external panel of respondents consisted of Real Estate Agents/Managers, Property Developers, Asset/Fund Managers and Owners/Investors.

Given the large number of respondents who are also directly exposed to the residential market, NAB expanded the survey questionnaire to focus more extensively on the Australian Residential market.

Around 290 panellists participated in the Q4 2013 Survey and the breakdown of our Survey respondents - by location, property sector and business type - are shown below.



Macroeconomic, Industry & Markets Research

Australia Alan Oster Jacqui Brand	Group Chief Economist Personal Assistant	+(61 3) 8634 2927 +(61 3) 8634 2181
Rob Brooker James Glenn Vyanne Lai	Head of Australian Economics & Commodities Economist - Australia & Commodities Economist - Agribusiness	+(61 3) 8634 1663 +(61 3) 9208 8129 +(61 3) 8634 0198
Dean Pearson Robert De Iure Brien McDonald Amy Li	Head of Industry Analysis Senior Economist - Industry Economist - Industry Analysis & Risk Metrics Economist - Industry Analysis	+(61 3) 8634 2331 +(61 3) 8634 4611 +(61 3) 8634 3837 +(61 3) 8634 1563
Tom Taylor John Sharma Tony Kelly Gerard Burg	Head of International Economics Economist - Sovereign Risk Economist - International Economist - Asia	+(61 3) 8634 1883 +(61 3) 8634 4514 +(61 3) 9208 5049 +(61 3) 8634 2788
Global Markets Research Peter Jolly Robert Henderson Spiros Papadopoulos David de Garis	Global Head of Research Chief Economist Markets - Australia Senior Economist - Markets Senior Economist - Markets	+(61 2) 9237 1406 +(61 2) 9237 1836 +(61 3) 8641 0978 +(61 3) 8641 3045
New Zealand Tony Alexander Stephen Toplis Craig Ebert Doug Steel	Chief Economist - BNZ Head of Research, NZ Senior Economist, NZ Markets Economist, NZ	+(64 4)474 6744 +(64 4) 474 6905 +(64 4) 474 6799 +(64 4) 474 6923
London Nick Parsons Tom Vosa Gavin Friend	Head of Research, UK/Europe & Global Head of FX Strategy Head of Market Economics - UK/Europe Markets Strategist - UK/Europe	+(44 20) 7710 2993 +(44 20) 7710 1573 +(44 20) 7710 2155
Sydney Melbourne Wellington London New York Singapore	Foreign Exchange +800 9295 1100 +800 842 3301 +800 64 642 222 +800 747 4615 +1 800 125 602 +(65) 338 0019	Fixed Interest/Derivatives +(61 2) 9295 1166 +(61 3) 9277 3321 +800 64 644 464 +(44 20) 7796 4761 +1877 377 5480 +(65) 338 1789

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